

Hamilton Field,
Base Engineering Administration
(Facility No. 835)
West end of Skeet Range Road
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-BW

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
IBW-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HAMILTON FIELD Base Engineering Administration (Facility No. 835)

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Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Base Engineering Administration
Facility No. 835 (west end of Skeet Range Road)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/4212220;
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

Significance:

Building 835 is considered significant for its association with Air Force history in northern California, and with World War II actions in the Pacific Theater. This administration building, built at the beginning of World War II, was an integral part of the Civil Engineering Division, which maintained base facilities.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

Description:

Facility 835 is a one-story frame rectilinear structure measuring 19 feet by 37 feet. It has a low-pitched gable roof with louvered vents in the gable ends and is covered with composition shingles. Siding is horizontal board covered with asbestos shingles. Foundations are wood piers. Floors are tongue and groove wood covered with eight-inch-square vinyl asphalt tile. Exterior pedestrian doors are solid core wood with four lights above three recessed panels. They have standard metal lock sets with round knobs and half-mortise door hinges. Fenestration consists of six- over six-light double hung wood sash.

The interior walls and ceilings are covered with gypsum board; some have been modernized with the addition of acoustical tile ceilings. Interior doors are solid core wood with four lights over three recessed panels; replacement doors are hollow core wood. Original lighting fixtures were "Schoolhouse" type with milk glass bulbs mounted on the ceilings; replacement lights are suspended or recessed industrial type double tube florescent fixtures.

Historical Context:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section 8 in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

Built in 1941 for \$1,200.00, this administration building was the first completed in the civil engineering complex. It has been vacant since base closure in 1974 and is deteriorated.

Sources:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398).

See the project Field Record, roll 4B, exposures 11-12.

The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

Project Information:

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part B00, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

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Date prepared: July 1995

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